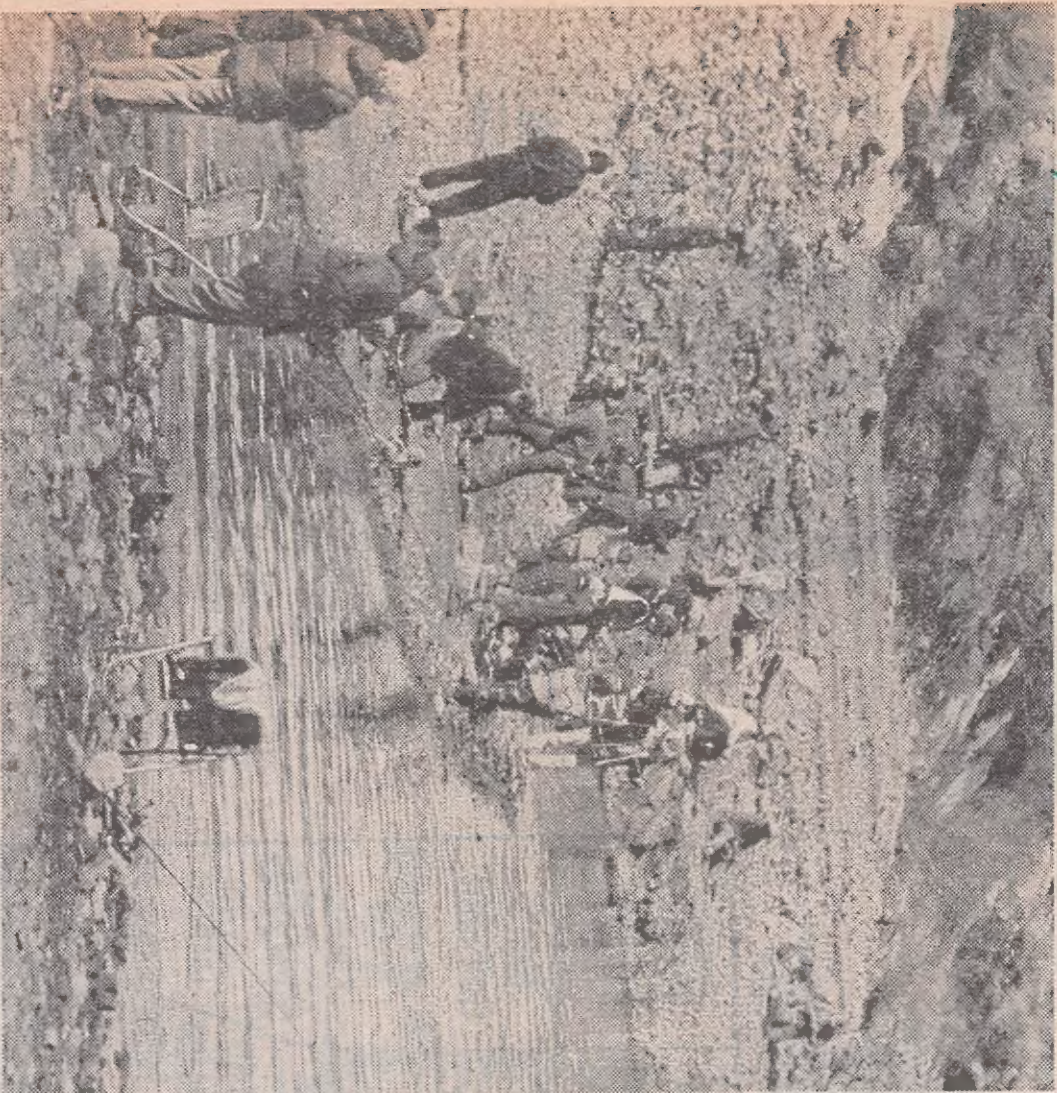


20 Apr 1984



Mini-opener a big success with fishermen

By Ray Grass
Deseret News sports writer

The opening of four waters to Utah fishermen last week accomplished its purpose: It gave fishermen a good reason to get outdoors, allowed the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to plant fish before the heavy runoff and it put fish on sportsmen's menu nearly a month and a half early.

Turnout on Saturday and Sunday at Deer Creek, Minersville, Otter Creek and Baker Reservoir, was not as great as some feared — wall-to-wall boats and fishermen — but it was good.

Minersville, Otter Creek and Baker, all located in the southern section of the state, reported pressure was about the same as on a regular opener. Fishing pressure was up slightly at Deer Creek, as expected.

While success was generally good, or about two to three fish per fisherman, DWR officers were mildly surprised that more of the 300,000 planters were not taken.

Most of the fish caught in Otter Creek and Baker were holdovers, or fish planted last year. Most of them were in the one and a half to two pound range. Minersville was slow, as expected, and Deer Creek was fair for both shore and boat fishermen.

Consensus is that once the catchables become acclimated to their new surroundings, in two to four weeks, planters will begin showing up regularly.

The idea behind the mini-opener was to offer Utah fishermen an early outing and good places to fish before the June 2 opener.

Shores around Deer Creek were crowded over the weekend, but fishing was good.

shoestring budget, have come up with a couple of fine athletes. One of them is a loan from the football See Scoreboard for a complete list of the state's best collegiate track and field marks.



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